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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Patent

1. A method of facilitating charging for communication in a telecommunication network having a control-plane entity and a user-plane entity, comprising the steps of:

sending, from the control-plane entity to the user-plane entity, an event in accordance with a media gateway control protocol, wherein the event orders the userplane entity to notify the control-plane entity when a predetermined volume of communication has occurred;

determining, by the user-plane entity, whether the predetermined volume of communication has occurred; and

notifying the control-plane entity when the predetermined volume of communication has occurred.

- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined volume of communication is a predetermined number of octets.
- 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the user-plane entity notifies the controlplane entity by sending a notify command in accordance with the media gateway control protocol, and the notify command includes a parameter identifying the communication.
- 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the volume of communication is selected such that signaling between the control-plane and user-plane entities is controlled.
- The method of claim 1, wherein the telecommunication network is a GPRS network that includes a GPRS support node that is split into the control-plane and userplane entities.
- 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the event orders the user-plane entity to notify the control-plane entity when at least one of a predetermined volume of communication has occurred and a predetermined time period of communication has elapsed.
- 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the telecommunication network is a circuitswitched network using packet bearers and having a node that is split into the controlplane and user-plane entities, and the predetermined volume of communication is one of a predetermined number of octets and a predetermined number of packets.
- 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the event orders the user-plane entity to notify the control-plane entity when at least one of a predetermined volume of

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communication has occurred and a predetermined time period of communication has elapsed.

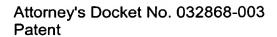
9. A method of facilitating charging for communication in a telecommunication network having a control-plane entity and a user-plane entity, comprising the steps of:

pre-provisioning, in the user-plane entity, an event in accordance with a media gateway control protocol, wherein the event orders the user-plane entity to notify the control-plane entity when a predetermined volume of communication has occurred;

determining, by the user-plane entity, whether the predetermined volume of communication has occurred; and

notifying the control-plane entity when the predetermined volume of communication has occurred.

- 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the predetermined volume of communication is a predetermined number of octets.
- 11. The method of claim 9, wherein the user-plane entity notifies the controlplane entity by sending a notify command in accordance with the media gateway control protocol, and the notify command includes a parameter identifying the communication.
- 12. The method of claim 9, wherein the volume of communication is selected such that signaling between the control-plane and user-plane entities is controlled.
- 13. The method of claim 9, wherein the telecommunication network is a GPRS network that includes a GPRS support node that is split into the control-plane and user-plane entities.
- 14. The method of claim 9, wherein the event orders the user-plane entity to notify the control-plane entity when at least one of a predetermined volume of communication has occurred and a predetermined time period of communication has elapsed.
- 15. The method of claim 9, wherein the telecommunication network is a circuit-switched network using packet bearers and having a node that is split into the control-plane and user-plane entities, and the predetermined volume of communication is one of a predetermined number of octets and a predetermined number of packets.
- 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the event orders the user-plane entity to notify the control-plane entity when at least one of a predetermined volume of



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communication has occurred and a predetermined time period of communication has elapsed.